

# MIGRANT

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MAGAZINE



## Kentucky Migrant Education Program

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## Kentucky's Comprehensive Needs Assessment revisions update

By Christina Benassi, State ID&R Coordinator

Every three years the Office of Migrant Education (OME) asks that we revise/ edit and evaluate our Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) and Service Delivery Plan (SDP). We also need to evaluate our migrant program to ensure that we are adequately serving students and meeting our goal stated in the SDP. This year we have started looking at our concerns from the CNA to see if they have changed since our last review.

Once we identify our concerns we have experts from a variety of areas come together to share their ideas and views on how we could find solutions to these concerns. This year our expert work group was held at the Kentucky Educational Development Cooperative (KEDC) in Lexington on Nov. 23. We had the areas of concerns divided up into five different areas:

- K-12 reading group
- preschool group
- K-12 math group
- out-of-school youth (OSY) group
- high school graduation group

Each concern group made suggestions for solutions; however, these solutions are not finalized at this point. They will be reviewed by the migrant coordinators, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) staff, and the Service Delivery Plan (SDP) team.

I personally want to thank those involved with the CNA process.

If you were not involved in the process this year, there will be many more opportunities in the future. The SDP will take place winter/spring 2016. We will be looking for eager volunteers to assist with this process as well. If you are interested please let Heather Rhorer ([heather.rhorer@education.ky.gov](mailto:heather.rhorer@education.ky.gov)) or Christina Benassi ([Christina.benassi@education.ky.gov](mailto:Christina.benassi@education.ky.gov)) know and we will take your request into consideration.

## Adair County middle schooler scores big reading points

By Shamarie Harper, Adair County Media - PR /Technology Resource Teacher /Migrant Recruiter

Jennifer Jimenez, one of Adair County's migrant students, was recently recognized for having reached the 500 Point Club at Adair County Middle School with 526.2 Accelerated Reader points!

She is an eighth grade student and the first student in the history of the club to reach the honor before the first semester has ended. The Adair County Migrant Program is very proud of Jennifer's accomplishment and we wanted to share it with the rest of the state.

For those of us who have the pleasure of

knowing Jennifer she is the most unique soul you will ever meet. Sweet, quiet, and genuine but also brilliant, she is on the honor roll and gives 110 percent to her studies and without question loves to read.

She is driven and we expect great things for her in the future. Way to go Jennifer Jimenez and keep up the great work! We think you will be the first student in the history of Adair County Middle School to reach 1000 Accelerated Reader points before the end of the year. We will keep everyone posted!



# Marion County Migrant Education Program hosts “Halloween Reading Spooktacular”

*By Christen Montgomery, Migrant Advocate Recruiter Assistant/Tutor*

The Marion County public schools’he Migrant Education Program hosted a Family Reading Night entitled “Halloween Reading Spooktacular” in October. Approximately 16 parents and 34 children participated in this event, which was a collaborative effort between many special services staff employed by Marion County Public Schools and housed in the Community Education Center. Programs represented included the Migrant Education Program, 21<sup>st</sup> Century, ESL, Community Education, Adult Education, the Gifted and Talented Program, the Marion County Public Library, Community Action, and the Family Resource Center of Glasscock Elementary.

Throughout the evening, children and their families went to different rooms where they completed craft projects, collected candy, and listened to stories and books read by staff members. Each child received at least one free book and a Halloween-themed door prize, provided by Glasscock Elementary’s Family Resource Center. Parents were also given door prizes such as detergent and other household items donated by Community Action of Lebanon. Children were invited to dress up in Halloween costumes as part of the festivities. Staff members dressed up in Halloween costumes, provided Halloween-themed decorations, refreshments, and a fun night of education, reading, and family togetherness.





## "Halloween Spooktacular" Continued

1. Kristen Trotier, who works at the Family Resource Center at Glasscock Elementary School, stands beside a table of books donated for the Family Reading Night. Each participating child took home at least one free book. 2. The Lopez family poses for a photo. 3. Migrant Assistant Recruiter Christen Montgomery reads the book "Boo!" to the Gijon-Santiago and Lopez families. 4. The Lopez and Gijon-Santiago children participate in Family Reading Night festivities. 5. Left to right: the Gijon-Santiago family and the Lopez family participate in Family Reading Night activities.

# Hands-on technology tips aid in recruiting efforts visit

By Deborah Bourland, Western Regional Advocate/Recruiter

In Kentucky, our regions have undergone many changes this year, bringing in many new faces to our migrant program, including myself. I began recruiting this past June, right in the middle of the busiest part of the year. My coworker, Marleny Flores, was still on maternity leave, and our Director Cindy Sasser and Data Specialist Karla Brasher had jumped in and taken care of all planning and coordination of summer camps and activities in addition to their regular responsibilities. Needless to say, it was a bit busy! In October, our newest recruiter, Victoria Knight, was hired. Thankfully, now things have settled down a bit, as our usual season for serving out-of-school youth winds to an end.

On Dec. 3 and 4 we were able to have Jorge Echegaray, a senior education specialist with ESCORT, come to our area for recruitment training. To start off with, Jorge talked us through the simple method of using Google Maps® to plan and map recruitment focus areas. For example, creating an Excel® spreadsheet with contact information for the district in which you will be recruiting will enable you to upload those contacts into the map program, and pinpoint your destinations. Be sure to use Google Chrome® browser when doing this

I attended a presentation at Fall Academy on how to use Google Maps® by Lupi Ginn, also with ESCORT, and thought I knew how to use it. Since my computer updated to Windows 10, however, I overlooked the fact that Edge® became the new internet browser by default, and it does not work to upload spreadsheets into Google Maps®. Once that obstacle was cleared, it was easily done, and each of us on staff could access our map plan for the day using our regional email account. Each of us in the Western Region have the username and password to that account which allows us to access it from any smart device we choose while

out in the field. Using this feature, we saw the location of our contacts in a district, and the icon and color of the icon we had assigned to each grouping before leaving. This enabled us to determine the most efficient route and efforts went much smoother.

While out checking in with our current contacts, Jorge gave us tips on other things to look for that may widen the scope of our connections. For example, I learned that by looking at the tobacco hanging in a barn, you can determine its age, and if it is a current tobacco farm in use. We saw one barn that had tobacco hanging in it, but once we stopped to look and photograph the area with the dropped pin (as it wasn't a current contact), he pointed out how the

tobacco was much too dried out and the barn had not been in recent use, notable by no tire tracks in or near the barn recently. We drove a bit further, and there was a gate across the remainder of the drive with "No Trespassing" and "Posted" signs. The gate obviously hadn't been opened in a while, so we left, but kept the photo and dropped a pin to check again in the spring for any updates. To keep the dropped pin, use the email option and send it to your own email address. The or-



Near KY-853, Greenville, KY 42345 <https://goo.gl/maps/NzNDACJGEV42> Tobacco barn, not recently accessed.

der the emails arrive in should correspond to the sequence of the photos on your device. I also include a brief description of the address in the email

If you use Google Earth® to open your dropped pins, you also notice the area around the pin. Maybe you came across a small gravel road that you weren't sure led anywhere, and it had recently rained and you didn't want to get stuck; using Google Earth®, you can see the aerial view of the area, and determine if you should try again when the road clears up, or if it simply ends.

Many of the tips and tricks Jorge discussed with us were

## Hands-On Technology Continued

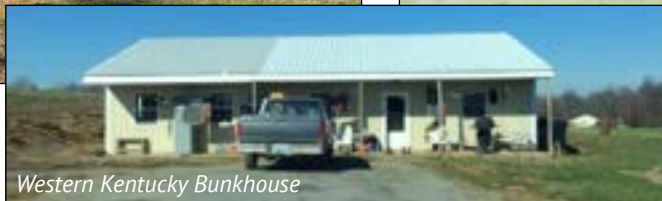
ones I'd been told since my hiring, and learned at Fall Academy and the National ID&R Conference, it just wasn't something I had retained because I had not used it in context. Going through the region, hearing his instruction while actually doing the activity, made a huge difference for me. Marleny and Victoria agreed.

Building a relationship with the community partners and farmers is key. When you're a familiar face in the area, even during the off season, shopping or eating at restaurants, the people will be more at ease when you approach them later, when it's time to recruit.

Some of our areas are very remote, but with a little searching, you can find "mom and pop" type shops in the area,

and stop in from time to time, or visit the farmers when there aren't workers, just to say "hello" and see how things are going. Knowing where they go for breakfast, or a snack before supper, and stopping in there while you are out is also a good way to be easily recognized. I have decided to add a bucket of dog treats to my list of recruiting items, as well. We saw so many cute pups, and where there is a dog, a farmer is not far behind!

I am not sure about the rest of you, but I am relieved to have made it through my first migrant season! I have learned a lot, and am excited to see what the new season in 2016 brings. You make a difference, whether you always realize it or not, and are appreciated!



Western Kentucky Bunkhouse



Scenes from my region

# First Eastern Region PAC meeting proves a success

By: Brock Baber, Eastern Region Migrant Advocate

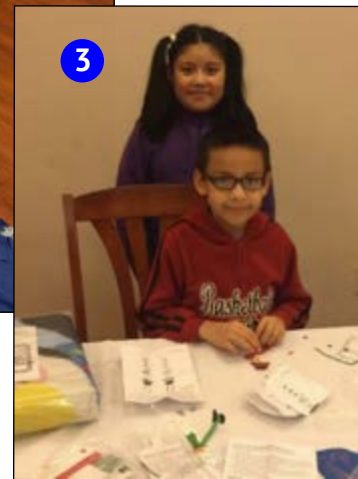
The Eastern Region held its first Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting in December at Blue Licks Battlefield in Robertson County. The meeting was very productive and the parents and children were very excited about the topics discussed.

This was a very successful meeting with nearly 60 participants from around the region. Counties that were represented were; Menifee, Mason, Robertson, Fleming, Bath, and Lewis. Parents were provided with information regarding MEP services and they were also provided with a recap of the State PAC, and summer programming plans. The PAC also nominated and selected two new parent representatives for the Eastern Region.

Past members shared responsibilities and the PAC voted and was extremely excited about the coming year. During the meeting 28 children enjoyed making crafts. The children made fleece blankets with holiday decorations, and also made Christmas ornaments. The regional staff was pleased to see that there were two families who attended their very first PAC meeting. The staff was able to work with the families and gain feedback specific to their needs. One parent suggested that the parents would like to receive help in how to instruct/help their children with school work, and the KEDC staff is looking into potential trainings that will assist parents in becoming proactive in their children's education as well as their own. The Eastern Regional staff was extremely pleased with this turn out and the parents mentioned that they are looking forward to the next meeting in the spring.

See **First Eastern Region PAC** on Page 5

1. The children made fleece blankets. 2. Brock explaining the purpose of Parent Advisory Council. 3. Children also made Christmas ornaments while their parents attended the meeting.



## Home Visits ease transition in Migrant Education Program

By Rhonda Miller  
WKU Public Radio

As a new school year begins, some families in Bowling Green are getting a little extra help, through home visits sponsored by the city schools.

For one family, whose home was shattered by murder, the home visit helps kids, just be kids.

"We've got a homework basket so you can keep your supplies in there..."

At the home of Oberlina Cruz Velis and her seven children, Bowling Green City Schools Migrant Advocate Assistant Teresa Sneed has a basket of new school supplies. It's for these children who had to leave everything behind in a desperate move from El Salvador three years ago.

"Our home visit today is the back-to-school information," says Sneed. The visit is part of the school district's Migrant Education program. Sneed has arrived with the school district's Bilingual Recruiter Mildred Maradiaga, who serves as interpreter.

"We brought pencils, notebooks, loose leaf paper, information about our calendar for next year, and the daily hours for each school," says Maradiaga.

Sneed takes out three small clocks.

"They're paper clocks, but with the dials, and so we're talking about what time school starts because Miss Oberlina's children attend Parker-Bennett, Bowling Green Junior High and Bowling Green High School, which the times are a little different, so we want to make sure they're aware of time they need to be at school," says Sneed.

Oberlina Cruz Velis says the people from the school dis-

trict have been a lifeline for her family. Maradiaga translates. "She said they have helped me with a lot of things and for me, they have been the best persons I have ever known in this town."

Maradiaga asks Cruz Velis why she left El Salvador.

"That's a very sad story."

Cruz Velis tells what happened in Spanish and Maradiaga translates.

"Well, it was because they killed my husband and my oldest son. And then we lived there for another year, but then they were also threatening to kill my two oldest daughters. So I had to leave, flee from El Salvador to the United States, even though I never wanted to leave my country, but I had to."

Cruz Velis and her husband were both 16 years old when they got married. Her husband was 34 years old when he was murdered. Her son was 18 when he was murdered.

Who killed them?

"Maraidos, which means gangsters."

Cruz Velis figures the gangsters were probably jealous of the successful business she and her husband had, selling and distributing fruits.

"Well, they were asking us for money every month, for our business, and also for our cars that we had."

The family arrived in Bowling Green in 2012. Cruz Velis worked in the tobacco fields for a while. Since they've been here, she says life has been bittersweet.

"For me it's been very hard because I'm here by myself,

See **Home Visits** on Page 6

## Home Visits Continued

but I'm also happy because I'm here with my kids and I feel safe."

The sweeter part is the more normal life for her children. School is an important part of that.

Teresa Sneed brings out a new book

"Lazy lizard..."

Three-year-old Josue taps on the book with one of his new pencils. There's something about new pencils, notebooks and scissors. Maybe it's just that every new school year, in some ways, is a new beginning.

"It says little lizard has lost..."

For WKU Public Radio, I'm Rhonda Miller.

"..and got the worm from the lizard. The end..."

*(This story originally ran on WKU Radio on Aug. 3, 2015)*

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### Upcoming Dates:

January 25-27, LEA Migrant Program Monitoring

March 19, State Parent Advisory Council Meeting, location TBD

April 24-27, NASDME, San Diego, California

June 21-25, Southern Regional Blitz

October 18-20, ID&R Forum San Antonio, Texas